



HR1260

LRB098 22154 GRL 61029 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to extend hearty congratulations to the
4 citizens of the City of Crystal Lake in McHenry County on the
5 occasion of the 100th anniversary of the signing of the City's
6 charter; and

7 WHEREAS, The City of Crystal Lake is located 50 miles
8 northwest of Chicago; it is currently McHenry County's largest
9 municipality; and

10 WHEREAS, Crystal Lake's origins can be traced to 2 separate
11 communities, Crystal Lake and Nunda, both of which were
12 established in the 1800s; and

13 WHEREAS, In 1836, Beman and Polly Tuttle Crandall and 6
14 children traveled from New York to Crystal Lake in a covered
15 wagon; they eventually built a log cabin in the vicinity of
16 what is today the intersection of Virginia Street and Van Buren
17 Street; they soon discovered a sparkling clear lake, tall
18 timber, and vast prairies; and

19 WHEREAS, By August of 1836, the United States government
20 granted homestead rights to the Crandalls; in May of 1837,
21 Hajah Beardsley's family was the second to settle in Crystal

1 Lake; the town was first known as Crystal Ville, but prior to
2 1840 it was changed to Crystal Lake; and

3 WHEREAS, The Village of Crystal Lake was platted in 1840 by
4 Beman Crandall, Christopher Walkup, and Abner Beardsley; the
5 village had the boundaries of Virginia Street to the north,
6 Lake Avenue to the south, McHenry Avenue to the east, and Dole
7 Avenue to the west; an old trail, forged by the Sac and Fox
8 tribes, extended from Fort Dearborn in Chicago to northwest
9 Wisconsin, with the portion through Crystal Lake known as
10 today's Route 14; and

11 WHEREAS, The Village of Nunda was established in 1855 with
12 the Chicago, St. Paul, and Fond du Lac railroad, the first
13 direct rail connection from Chicago; the Village was platted
14 later that year by local surveyor John Brink; and

15 WHEREAS, In 1856, a rail spur line, which today is known as
16 Dole Avenue, was built from the Village of Nunda to Crystal
17 Lake to transport ice cut from the lake to Chicago and to bring
18 visitors from Chicago to the area; and

19 WHEREAS, The Villages of Crystal Lake and Nunda were each
20 incorporated in 1874; in 1908, the name of the Village of Nunda
21 was changed to North Crystal Lake; and

1 WHEREAS, The Village's first public library opened in 1913
2 with a small collection of books and magazines; today, that
3 library circulates more than one million items each year; and

4 WHEREAS, After several attempts to consolidate the 2
5 villages failed, on April 28, 1914, the Village of North
6 Crystal Lake was finally annexed into the Village of Crystal
7 Lake; a City form of government was established at that time;
8 on September 23, 1914, the City of Crystal Lake Charter was
9 adopted; and

10 WHEREAS, The City of Crystal Lake's first mayor was Mayor
11 William Pinnow, who served from 1914 to 1917; a total of 16
12 mayors have presided over the City since that time; and

13 WHEREAS, In 1914, there was one public high school and one
14 public grade school in Crystal Lake; today, the community's
15 children attend 2 of the very best public school systems in the
16 region - Elementary School District 47 and Community High
17 School District 155; and

18 WHEREAS, In the 1920s, an aggressive street paving program
19 took place under Mayors Ben Raue and Fred Mathis; the Crystal
20 Lake Park District was created in 1921 out of community concern
21 that public access to the lake and beach would be lost to
22 private ownership; today, residents enjoy more than 1,600 acres

1 of parks and open space, as well as the 230-acre Crystal Lake
2 for summertime fishing, boating, swimming, and wintertime ice
3 fishing and skating; and

4 WHEREAS, In 1929, the El Tovar Theatre was built; this
5 theatre was eventually renovated to become today's Raue Center
6 for the Arts; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1936, the City celebrated 100 years since the
8 first settlers arrived in Crystal Lake; the celebration
9 included a Centennial queen and court, a large parade, antique
10 displays, and a pageant; and

11 WHEREAS, Mining for gravel began in the 1950s, amidst much
12 controversy; an agreement was eventually reached where the land
13 would be deeded to the City once the gravel operations ceased;
14 this land was ultimately developed into today's Three Oaks
15 Recreation Area; and

16 WHEREAS, Hundreds of homes and 5 lives were lost on April
17 11, 1965, when a devastating tornado ripped through a highly
18 populated area of town; the community joined together after the
19 tornado to help neighbors and to rebuild; and

20 WHEREAS, Beginning in the 1970s, Crystal Lake experienced
21 significant changes in both its residential and business

1 population, with population growing from approximately 14,000
2 in the early 1970s to almost 41,000 in 2010; and

3 WHEREAS, The City of Crystal Lake's City Hall was located
4 at the corner of Main and Beardsley Streets until a point in
5 the 1900s, when a new Municipal Complex was built on Woodstock
6 Street; a large addition to the Municipal Complex was completed
7 in 2004; and

8 WHEREAS, In 2001, the Downtown City of Crystal Lake was a
9 recipient of the Governor's Hometown Award for the
10 revitalization of the downtown area; in 2012, the City once
11 again received the Governor's Hometown Award, this time for
12 improvements to the Three Oaks Recreational area; and

13 WHEREAS, Today, people continue to relocate to Crystal Lake
14 in search of more open space, less traffic, more affordable
15 land, and safer neighborhoods; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
17 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
18 we congratulate the City of Crystal Lake on the occasion of the
19 100th anniversary of the signing of the City's charter; and be
20 it further

21 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be

1 presented to the City of Crystal Lake's City Council as an
2 expression of our congratulations.